

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, after the title, please insert as follows:

This application is the US national phase of international application PCT/JP2004/001358 filed 09 February 2003, which designated the US and claims priority to JP Application No. 2003-032770 filed 10 February 2002 and JP Application No. 2003-068579 filed 13 March 2003. The entire contents of these applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 16, as follows:

Specifically, Document 1 (U.S. Reissue Patent No. 32,649) proposes a water absorbent resin that excels in gel strength, soluble content, and absorbency. Document 2 (U.K. Patent No. 2,267,094B) proposes a water absorbent resin with excellent liquid permeability against no pressure, and excellent absorption speed and absorbency. Further, Document 3 (U.S. Patent No. ~~5,051,259~~5,061,259), Document 4 (U.S. Patent No. 5,419,956), Document 5 (U.S. Patent No. 6,087,002), and Document 6 (European Patent No. ~~629,441~~629,411) propose techniques for specifying a particle size distribution.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7, as follows:

It is also known that water absorbent resins with specific properties are suitable for absorbent articles (diapers) having particular properties, configuration, and/or polymer concentration, as disclosed in Document 25 (U.S. Patent No. 5,147,343), Document 26 (U.S. Patent No. 5,149,335), Document 27 (European Patent No. 532,002), Document 28

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(U.S. Patent No. ~~5,601,452~~5,601,542), Document 29 (U.S. Patent No. 5,562,646),
Document 30 (U.S. Patent No. 5,669,894), Document 31 (U.S. Patent No. 6,150,582),
Document 32 (International Publication WO02/53198), Document 33 (U.S. Patent No.
5,843,059), and Document 34 (U.S. Patent Application No. ~~2001/4951~~2001/49514).